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| EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. <u>EL552570908US</u> |

Inventors: Thomas Jozefiak, Stephen Randall Holmes-Farley, W. Harry
Mandeville, III, Chad Cori Huval, Venkata Garigapati, Keith
Shackett, and Danny Concagh

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FAT-BINDING POLYMERS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/353,329, filed
July 14, 1999, ^{now us patent 6,299,868,} which is a Continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No.
09/166,453 filed on October 5, 1998, ^{now us patent 6,264,937,} which is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S.
Application Serial No. 09/004,963 filed on January 9, 1998, the entire contents of
which are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- Human obesity is a recognized health problem with approximately 97 million
people considered clinically overweight in the United States. The accumulation or
maintenance of body fat bears a direct relationship to caloric intake. Therefore, one of
the most common methods for weight control to combat obesity is the use of relatively
low-fat, low calorie diets, that is, diets containing less fat and calories than a "normal
diet" or that amount generally consumed by the patient.
- The presence of fats in a great many food sources greatly limits the food sources
which can be used in a low-fat diet. Additionally, fats contribute to the flavor,